

To his GRACE,  
HIS  
MAJESTIES

High COMMISSIONER; And to the Right Honourable, the

Estates of PARLIAMENT.

THE

ADDRESS

OF THE

PRESBITERIAN MINISTERS

And PROFESSORS of the

Church of Scotland.

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TO HIS  
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H I S  
M A J E S T I E S  
High COMMISSIONER, And to the Right Honourable, the  
Estates of PARLIAMENT.

*The Humble Address of the PRESBITERIAN  
Ministers and Professors of the CHURCH of*

**SCOTLAND.**

SHEWETH



THAT as We cannot but Acknowledge, and Adore the Holy and Righteous Dispensation of the LORD, in all the great and long continued afflictions wherewith he hath afflicted us for our sins; so we are not a little filled with Admiration, at the Great and Wonderful Providence of our most Gracious GOD, who alone doth great Wonders, for His mercy endureth for ever; That at such a time when our strength was gone, and there was none to deliver, He mercifully stirred up that Pious and



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and Magnanimous Prince, *WILLIAM*, then Prince of  
*Orange*; now by the good Hand of *GOD*, our Gracious  
*Sovereign*, to espouse the interest of the *PROTESTANT RELIGION*,  
and of the afflicted Ministers and Professors thereof in these King-  
domes; and hath blessed him in so Heroick and Noble an Under-  
taking with agreeable success. As also, hath raised up your  
Lordships, our most Noble, and Honourable Patriots, to joyn  
heartily with his Majestie in appearing Zealouslie for securing of  
the *Protestant Religion* in this Kingdom, and for what may tend  
to the better establishment thereof in all its concerns; and evi-  
dencing your just indignation against the corruptions of Church  
and State, in your Lordships claim of Right, and particularly,  
by freeing us of the *Poke of Prelacy*, and of the undue power  
and *Ecclesiastical Supremacy* in Church matters formerly established  
in the Supreme Magistrate: And as these your Lordships zeal-  
ous beginnings of appearing for the Interest of the *Protestant Re-*  
*ligion*, and Professors thereof have been, and are great matter of  
joy to our hearts, and blessing and magnifying our Lord and Ma-  
ster, in your Lordships behalf, so they are a door of hope to us, and  
to all that love the *True Reformed Protestant Religion* in this Land,  
That his Grace, his Majesties high Commissioner, and this ho-  
nourable Court of Parliament, will in your Station, go on zea-  
lously in your begun work of purging this poor oppressed Church  
from all corruptions brought into it, by ambitious, and covetous  
Church-men, who sought their own things, but not the things of  
*Jesus Christ*; And from all the sad consequences which have follow-  
ed upon the erecting of *Prelacy*; such as were the driving of seve-  
ral hundreds of Ministers all at one time out of their Churches,  
without either Accusation or Citation; and the filling their pla-  
ces with ignorant and scandalous Persons, (which his Majestie is  
graciously pleased to notice in his Declaration for *Scotland*, as an  
occasion of all this poor Churches mileries, and from which in-  
supportable sufferings, he declared his Resolution to relieve and  
relcue us;) And we may add with many also Erronious and un-  
sound in the Faith, Enemies to the *Reformation*, and who have  
now



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now appeared Disaffected to the present Civil Government: As also the framing of a numerous train of severe Laws, severely executed both on Ministers and People of all Degrees, so far, that even while we were counted, and treated, *as sheep for the slaughter*, we might not Petition, nor Complain, without rendering ourselves highly criminal by the Laws and Acts then made.

All which, we hope, the Commissioner his Grace, and your Lordships in this present Parliament, will take to your serious Consideration, and will free this poor oppressed Church from such Oppressors and Oppressions, and settle it again upon the right Foundations of Government and Discipline, agreeable to the word of GOD, and Established in this Church by Law near an hundred years agoe. Which Settlement, we are confident, will prove the best Remedy of all our otherways incurable distractions, and the mean of quieting and uniting the whole Country in a joynt Opposition against all their Majesties and your Lordships Enemies.

We therefore their Majesties most Loyal Subjects, and your Lordships most humble and dutiful Servants in Christ, humbly beseech, the Commissioner his Grace, and the Honourable Estates of Parliament, seeing the Kings Majestic hath declared, (and your Lordships with him have zealously appeared) for the Protestant Religion. That you will be graciously pleased by your Civil Sanction, to Establish and Ratifie the late Confession of Faith, at Westminster, with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, (which contain the Sum and Substance of the Doctrine of the Reformed Churches,) the Directory of Worship, and Presbyterian Church Government, all agreeable to the Church of GOD, and formerly received by the general consent of this Nation; And seeing Prelacie, and all who have entered under Prelacie, have been imposed upon the Church without her consent, in any of her free General Assemblies; and that Presbyterian Government cannot be secure in the hands of them, who are of contrary Principles. Therefore we humbly petition that the Church Government may be Established in the hands of such only, who by their former Carriage, and Sufferings have evidenced



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ed, that they are known sound *Presbyterians*, and well affected to his Majesties Government, or who hereafter shall be found to be such, ( which we are hopeful by the Grace of GOD, shall be managed with such Christian Prudence, Moderation, and Tenderness, as shall leave no just matter of complaint to any ) and that not only these Ministers yet alive, who were unjustly thrust from their Churches, may be restored thereto; And these Paroches and Flocks at that time, no less violently imposed upon, may be freed from Intruders. But also, all other *Presbyterian Ministers*, who either are already, or may be by Respective Flocks orderly called hereafter, may have Access to be settled in Churches after the *Presbyterian way*, as they have or shall be *Ecclesiastically* Approved and Appointed, and may have your Lordships Civil Sanction added thereunto.

And we humbly beseech, That the Church thus established, may be allowed by your Lordships Civil Sanction, to appoint Visitations for purging our insufficient, negligent, scandalous, and erroneous Ministers. And seeing Patronages which had the rise in the most corrupt and latter times of *Antichristianism*, and hath alwayes been a great Grievance to this Church, as the Source and Fountain of a corrupt Ministrie, that these may be abolished, and that the Church may be established upon its former good Foundations, confirmed by many Acts of Parliament, since the year one thousand five hundred and sixtie; And that all Acts contrarie to this Government, that appoints or establishes Ceremonies, and imposes Punishments on *Presbyterians* for Non-conformity thereto, or for worshipping GOD according to their Principles, may be Abrogate: And as a good and necessary mean for preserving the purity of the Church, That your Lordships take care that Learned, Sound and Godly Men be put in Universities and Seminaries of Learning, ( humbly submitting to your Lordships Wildoms, the method of considering and effectuating these our humble Desires. ) That all things being done for the *House of the*  
*GOD*



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GOD of Heaven, according to the Commandment of the GOD of Heaven, by your Lordships Pious and Wise Managing of these Affairs of the Church of CHRIST; This poor and long oppressed and tossed Church, may at length through GODS Blessing arrive at a Quiet and Safe Harbour; And the true Honour and Happiness of his Majestie, and your Lordships as the Signal Nurfing Fathers of the Church of CHRIST in this Land, may be Advanced, and continued to future Generations; And so the blessing of the Church, ( which was ready to perish, ) may remain still upon his Majesty, and your Lordships.

And your Lordships Petitioners shall ever pray, That GOD may Bless and Protect the Persons of their Majesties King WILLIAM and Queen MARY, long to Rule and Govern this Nation; And your Lordships under them.

F I N I S.



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